EIL and consisting of representatives from Planning Commission, GAIL, ONGC, IOC and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been constituted to examine the various offers received for import of natural gas, with a view to augmenting the supplies of natural gas in the country.

Oil Refinery in Joint Sector

1237. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set-up Oil refinery in joint sector involving IOC and private sector or with foreign investmet in U.P. and Bihar during the current financial year;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any offer in this regard from any private sector/ foreign sector;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and whether any decision has been taken so far;

(d) if so, what are the details of the decision; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Suspension of Chairman of IOC

1238. SHRI P. UPENDRA
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI
DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the Indian Oil Corporation has recently been suspended;

(b) what are the reasons for this drastic action;

(c) whether any inquiry into the matter has been instituted, if so, the results of the inquiry; and

(d) whether this is related to the Snam Progetti's attempt to re-enter the race for the Kandla-Bhatinda contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Various complaints of grave misconduct have been received against the Chairman, IOC. After preliminary enquiry and on the advice of the Central Vigilance Commission, the CBI has registered a case for investigation.

(d) No, Sir.

Applicability of T. V. A. to L. D. O.

1239. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Temperature Variation Allowance which was not applicable to the supply of Light Diesel Oil (L.D.O.) was made applicable under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Oil Corporation has been directed to pay compensation to the buyers for consignments supplied before September 25, 1992; and

(c) if not, why and whether the Indian Oil Corporation is now properly adhering to the norms of the Temperature Variation Allowance with regard to the Light Diesel Oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Temperature Variation Allowance on LDO has been allowed by Government with effect from 25th September, 1992 in consultation with Indian Oil Corporation.

(c) Indian Oil Corporation is acting according to the Ministry's guidelines.

Norms of Laying of Oil and Gas Pipelines

1240. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in Indian Express of 26th May, 1993 stating that Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) is not following norms in laying of oil and gas pipelines; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ONGC is following the recommended practices/norms for laying of oil and gas pipelines. Sometimes, to obtain early production of crude oil, pipeline norms are modified subject to technoeconomic viability and prescribed safety norms.

Production of Crude Oil by ONGC

1241. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of Crude Oil by ONGC during 1992-93 was lower than that of 1991-92; and

(b) if so, by what quantity and what are the reasons for such low production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) The production of crude oil by ONGC during 1992-93 was 24.43 MMT as compared to a production of 27.82 MMT during 1991-92. The reasons for this shortfall in production include :—

(i) Implementation of the rectificatory measures in the Bombay High field;

(ii) Delay in start of production from Ravva Phase-I;

(iii) Reservoir constraints in Western Region; and

(iv) Environmental constraints in Eastern Region.

Review of Prices of the Petroleum Products

1242. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the consumption of Petroleum Products in the recent month have shown declining trend:

(b) if so, the percentage by which the consumption of petroleum products have fallen during the last six months; and

(c) whether in view of the declining trend in the consumption of petroleum products Government propose to review the prices of the Petroleum products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (d) The consumption of Petroleum Products during the last six months and the growth over the corresponding period of the previous year is shown below :—

Month (1993)	Qty. (TMT) (Provisional)	%Growth
January	4939	—4.5
February	4897	—1.0
March	5020	2.0
April	4811	—1.3
May	4907	—2.1
June	4941	—0.9

(c) There is no such proposal.

Allocation of Offshore Gas to Gujarat

1243. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE
SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gujarat Government has requested for allocation of offshore gas in the State sector, if so whether any such allocation has been or is likely to be made;

(b) whether any offshore gas has been allotted to non-central sector projects in Gujarat, if so, what quantity has been allotted project-wise, whether there is any policy for not allotting offshore gas for State sector projects in Gujarat;

(c) whether Government has fixed priorities in regard to gas allocation based on its usage, if so, what are the principles on which this prioritisation has been done and what are the details of the prescribed priorities whether allocation of offshore gas has strictly followed these priorities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) Allocations of gas are not made on considerations, of it being offshore or onshore, or on considerations of the gas based projects